

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4, 6, and 7 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 8, 21, and 23 such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A magnetic writer comprising:
a bottom pole including a first bottom pole portion and a second bottom pole portion;
and
a top pole including a first top pole portion and a second top pole portion connected by a top pole extension at a front surface of the magnetic writer, the first top pole portion positioned proximate to the ~~bottom pole~~ second bottom pole portion and having a substantially similar shape as the first top pole portion at the front surface, the top pole extension orienting a magnetization of the first top pole portion substantially parallel to the front surface, wherein ~~a portion of the bottom pole proximate to the top pole~~ the second bottom pole portion extends from the front surface to at least a magnetic throat height of the magnetic writer, and wherein the magnetic throat height is a distance from the front surface to an edge of the first top pole portion distal from the front surface.
2. (Previously presented) The magnetic writer of claim 1, wherein the top pole extension has a uniform width at the front surface.
3. (Previously presented) The magnetic writer of claim 1, wherein the top pole extension has a greater length along the front surface than the first top pole portion.
4. (Canceled)

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5. (Currently amended) The magnetic writer of claim 4, wherein the ~~base pole~~ first bottom pole portion is recessed from the front surface.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The magnetic writer of claim 4, wherein a magnetization of the ~~notch pole~~ second bottom pole portion is oriented generally perpendicular to the front surface.

9. (Original) The magnetic writer of claim 1, wherein the second top pole portion is substantially planar.

10. (Original) The magnetic recording head of claim 1, further comprising:
a conductive coil positioned such that at least a portion of the conductive coil is positioned between the bottom pole and the top pole.

11. (Original) The magnetic writer of claim 10, wherein the at least a portion of the conductive coil is encapsulated in a gap layer which fills an area between the bottom pole and the top pole.

12. (Previously presented) The magnetic writer of claim 1, wherein the bottom pole and the top pole are connected by a back gap closer distal from the front surface.

13. (Previously presented) A magnetic writer comprising:
a bottom pole including a base pole and a notch pole; and
a top pole including a first top pole portion and a second top pole portion connected by a top pole extension, the first top pole portion positioned across a gap from the notch pole, the top pole extension having a uniform width at a medium confronting surface and a greater length along the medium confronting surface than the first top pole portion, wherein the notch pole

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extends from the medium confronting surface to at least a magnetic throat height of the magnetic writer, and wherein the magnetic throat height is a distance from the medium confronting surface to an edge of the first top pole portion distal from the medium confronting surface.

14. (Previously presented) The magnetic writer of claim 13, wherein the base pole is recessed from the medium confronting surface to prevent fringe erasure fields.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The magnetic writer of claim 13, wherein the base pole and the notch pole have a substantially funnel cross-section such that a narrower portion of the substantially funnel cross-section is proximate to the medium confronting surface.

20. (Previously presented) The magnetic writer of claim 13, wherein the bottom pole and the top pole are connected by a back gap closer distal from the medium confronting surface.

21. (Currently amended) A magnetic writer comprising:
a top pole including a first top pole portion, a second top pole portion, and a top pole extension positioned therebetween;
a bottom pole including a ~~base pole~~ first bottom pole portion and a ~~notch pole~~ second bottom pole portion, the ~~base pole~~ first bottom pole portion being recessed from a front surface, the ~~notch pole~~ second bottom pole portion being positioned proximate to the top pole and extending from the front surface to at least a magnetic throat height of the magnetic writer, wherein the magnetic throat height is a distance from the front surface to an edge of the first top pole portion distal from the front surface; and
a gap layer positioned between the top pole and the bottom pole.

22. (Original) The magnetic writer of claim 21, wherein at least a portion of a conductive coil is positioned within the gap layer.

23. (Currently amended) The magnetic writer of claim 21, wherein ~~the top pole includes a first top pole portion, a second top pole portion, and a top pole extension positioned therebetween,~~ the first top pole portion is positioned across the gap layer from the ~~notch pole~~ second bottom pole portion.

24. (Previously presented) The magnetic writer of claim 23, wherein the top pole extension has a uniform width at the front surface and a greater length along the front surface than the first top pole portion.

25. (Previously presented) The magnetic writer of claim 23, wherein the top pole extension orients a magnetization of the first top pole portion substantially parallel to the front surface of the magnetic writer.